



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/716,874

11/20/2003

Kazuhito Gassho

Q78472

5635

23373 7590 08/02/2007
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

PARK, CHAN S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/02/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/716,874	Applicant(s) GASSHO ET AL.	
	Examiner CHAN S. PARK	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/20/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Line 6, "the print jobs" should be -- the print job --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "the print jobs" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0042797.

3. With respect to claim 1, Kimura discloses a job management apparatus (client PC 102 in conjunction with print server PC 101 in fig. 7) connected with a network separately from a printing device that manages status of a print job to be processed in the printing device (printer 710) connected with the network, comprising:

- a retention module that stores the print job (paragraphs 52 & 58);

- a transmitter that transmits the stored print job to the printing device (paragraph 52); and

- a delete inhibition module that inhibits the retention module from deleting the print job which has been transmitted out (note that the print data is not deleted from the memory until the completion notification is received from the printer according to paragraphs 58 & 61).

4. With respect to claim 2, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

- a receiver that receives completion notification of the print job from the printing device (paragraphs 58 & 61),

- wherein the delete inhibition module allows the retention module to delete the print job corresponding to the completion notification when receiving the completion notification (paragraphs 58 & 61).

5. With respect to claim 3, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

- a receiver that receives notification regarding the status of the print job in the printing device (paragraphs 58~63),

wherein the retention module changes the status of the print job corresponding to the notification to the notified status when receiving the notification (fig. 10).

6. With respect to claim 4, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

an error detection module that detects error involved with printing in the printing device (paragraphs 59 & 73),

wherein the retention module changes the status of the print job corresponding to the detected error to halt that is out of print queue when the error is detected (paragraph 73).

7. With respect to claim 5, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein the error detection module detects the error based on error notification from the printing device (paragraph 59).

8. With respect to claim 8, Kimura discloses a printing device (printer 710 in fig. 7) connected with a network separately from a job management apparatus (client PC 102 in conjunction with print server PC 101 in fig. 7) that manages status of a print job, wherein the printing device performs the print job received from the job management apparatus, comprising:

a job management module that manages the print job by associating it with one of plural statuses that are preset (print job completion notification in paragraph 58); and

a notification module that informs the job management apparatus of the status every time the status of the print job is changed (paragraphs 58 & 59).

9. With respect to claims 9 and 11, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1, are applicable.

10. With respect to claim 10, Kimura teaches the method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

informing the job management apparatus of the status of the print job in the printing device from the printing device to the job management apparatus (paragraphs 58~63); and

changing the status of the corresponding print job among the print jobs stored in the job management apparatus to the notified status in response to the notification (paragraphs 58~63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Yagita U.S. Patent No. 6,654,137.

11. With respect to claim 6, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 4, but it does not explicitly disclose that the error detection module detects the error by inquiring to the printing device regarding at least either one of the status of the printing device or the status of the print job.

Yagita, the same field of endeavor of notifying the status of print job to the host, discloses the host computer inquiring the printing device for the status of the print job (col. 1, lines 30-33).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the inquiring method of Yagita into the printing system of Kimura.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to get the status of the print job without the printing device initiating the transmission of the status.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kimura with Yagita to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Asthana et al. U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0185877 (hereinafter Asthana).

12. With respect to claim 7, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 4, comprising

a receiver that receives notification regarding performing status of the print job from the printing device (paragraphs 58-59).

Kimura, however, does not explicitly disclose that the error detection module determines that the error has occurred in the printing device when period up to the receipt of the notification is over predetermined period of time.

Asthana, the same field of endeavor of the print job completion notification system, discloses a printing system for determining that the error has occurred in the

Art Unit: 2625

printing device when period up to the receipt of the notification is over predetermined period of time (paragraph 199).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the error detection method of Asthana into the printing system of Kimura.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to automatically determine the error without waiting for a long period of time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kimura with Asthana to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Art Unit: 2625

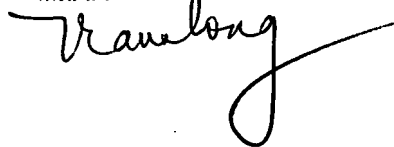
Contact Information

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S. PARK whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

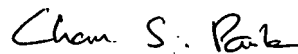
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



csp
July 27, 2007